

Third Convention of League Draws Balance Sheet for Six Years

Bringing the Third National Convention to an end, the delegates of branches of the Communist League of America from coast to coast, and a packed visitors gallery of members of the New York branch, sang with a sentiment arising out of deep conviction the classic chorus:

"The International Soviet shall be the human race."

Comrade Max Shachtman announced the adjournment of the Third and last national convention of the C.L.A. Thereafter everyone present a profound realization that a period had ended and a new one begun. The convention had unanimously voted to disband the C.L.A. by merging it with the American Workers Party in the Workers Party of the United States.

Six years of successful activity as a propagandist group came to an end. The balance sheet was written:

The ideas of Marx and Lenin, the spirit of proletarian internationalism, the theory of the permanent revolution, had been kept alive and vital in the U. S. by the League. Cadres had been built, armed with the intellectual weapons that alone can combined with organized proletarian masses, can bring capitalism to an end and introduce the communist order of society. The groundwork had been laid for the country's sole revolutionary proletarian party—the Workers Party of the United States, a current in the international movement sweeping toward the foundation of a new, the Fourth International.

The Third Convention reported substantial gains over the Second League Convention held in October 1928 in New York City. Three years ago the Communist League (opposition) was a skeleton organization with branches in only a few major cities. The report of the national secretary, Arne Swabeck, revealed that the membership had been doubled and that there existed 21 branches in the major industrial centers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Those branches were represented by forty-three delegates. Four delegates from four mid-western cities were unable to be present because of financial difficulties. Six fraternal delegates came from the Workers Party of Canada.

A large proportion of the delegates had been in the C.L.A. since its inception, others had been in the Communist Party many years before they joined the League. Still others had come from various sections and tendencies of the labor movement. The composition of the delegates was overwhelmingly proletarian, many being deeply rooted in the trade union movement.

Second of the achievements recorded at the convention was the maintenance of the League's weekly paper, in six years the Militant had gained the respect of the entire revolutionary movement of the world for its honesty, its clear methods and above all for the clarity and correctness of its policies.

The New International in the third issue in this month of complements. Although still very young, it has already made a name for itself as the outstanding theoretical review in the revolutionary labor movement.

The Minneapolis strike, symbolizing the truth that sound theory merged with sound practice can bring victory to the working class, stood out among the achievements of the League.

The League convention was not a wordy assembly artificially held together by a bureaucratic whip, but a genuine Communist gathering. It had been preceded by three months of free, untrammeled discussion in branch meetings and internal bulletins. Minutes were recorded every day, the right to be heard by the constitution was provided in the constitution and given proportional representation at the convention. The debates and discussions at the conference, often sharp but always constructively, were many-sided and thorough.

The convention was absorbed with two major questions. The discussion centered on the report by comrade James P. Cannon on the international question, particularly the recent fusion of the latter national Communist League to which he was a delegate and the so-called "French question." The other report was by comrade Max Shachtman on the question of factory interventionism and American Communism. The latter report, which was a two-sided one, raised questions were intelligently considered.

Comrade Cannon reported on the work in the revolutionary movement since the triumph of Hitler, the declaration for the Fourth International, the Pact of Four, the

(Continued on Page 4)

Spartacus Youth Meets

The National Convention of the Spartacus Youth League is now in session at Bayview Casino, New York City. Discussions have revealed unanimous sentiment for the constitution of the Spartacus League as the youth movement of the Workers Party of the United States, politically subordinate to and organizationally independent of the adult revolutionary party.

A. J. Morte, National Secretary of the W.P., addressed the convention Tuesday on behalf of the National Committee. Max Shachtman, a pioneer leader of the Communist League of America, which first established the Communist youth movement in America, addressed the convention on behalf of the outgoing National Committee of the C.L.A. The next week's issue will contain a full report of the convention.

Workers Of N.Y. Rally To Support Party

The first mass meeting held by the Workers Party drew twelve hundred workers as, within a week of its formation, the party made its first public appearance at Germania Hall Sunday night.

Addressing the largest group of workers brought together by a political program in recent years outside the reformist and Stalinist ranks, representative leaders reflected in their appearance and address a crisis section of the proletarian foundations of the Workers Party.

Insurgent leader of the coal miners for two decades, founder of the West Virginia Miners' Union, leader of the famous Laidlaw County march of twenty thousand armed miners across three counties in 1921, which was stopped only by the Federal troops, Brand Scott spoke away at the labor leaders of the capitalist class and declared that only the Workers Party could smash the John Lewis and build the fortresses of the working class.

Trade Unions Speak
Vincent J. Dunne, one of the three brothers all of whom were leaders of the Minneapolis drivers in their victorious strikes earlier this year, told of the rising progressive movement in the labor unions throughout the Minneapolis district, and the role the Workers Party must play in bringing together the thousands left wing in the American Federation of Labor as an essential step in preparing the overthrow of capitalism.

The Toledo auto workers' strike of last summer was represented by Ted Stander and Sam Pollack. Leaders of the Lucas County Unemployed League, they unveiled the indictment against picketing, organized and led the mass picketing in a series of bloody battles against the National Guard, and so aroused the labor movement that, faced by threats of a general strike, the bosses agreed to include in the ranks of the revolutionary working class movement the twelve million Negro masses was brought in the form by three delegates—Nora and Sam Pollack. Leaders of the Lucas County Unemployed League, they unveiled the indictment against picketing, organized and led the mass picketing in a series of bloody battles against the National Guard, and so aroused the labor movement that, faced by threats of a general strike, the bosses agreed to include in the ranks of the revolutionary working class movement the twelve million Negro masses was brought in the form by three delegates—Nora and Sam Pollack.

Most of the members of the new party have come out of the Communist Party of Canada and the U.C.L. The W. P. is steadily growing in size, in the eyes of its constituents, and in its influence among the class-conscious workers throughout the province.

The Militant, comrade Macdonald stated, performs an indispensable service in rallying and educating the initial cadres of the new party in its earlier days. The Workers Party today, however, has ten years of its own, the Militant, published monthly, and the Workers' Voice, a foreign language paper of the Ukrainian workers.

The New International has already made a remarkably favorable impression. Not on the Canadian intelligentsia, however, who have banned the magazine along with other revolutionary literature.

The organized workers of Canada are divided among A. P. of L., U. M. W., Canadian National Union (French-speaking population in Quebec), and the Stalinist Workers Unity League. The A. P. of L. has approximately 100,000 members, the national union 40,000, the Catholic union about 25,000, and the U. M. W. about 15,000. The chief influence of the Stalinists is among the lumber workers, the druggists in Toronto (about 10,000), the police in St. Albert, and the shoe workers in Ontario.

Inasmuch as they dominate the trade they have organized, it is very difficult for the Workers Party to win the support of the Stalinists. The Workers Party has already made a remarkably favorable impression. Not on the Canadian intelligentsia, however, who have banned the magazine along with other revolutionary literature.

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Workers Party Facts

Temporary National Headquarters at the Workers Party of the United States: 112 East 10th Street, N. Y. C. Phone AL-6058.

National Secretary: A. J. Morte.

Official Organ: The New Militant (weekly) 144 Second Avenue, N. Y. C. Phone GR-5521; The New International (monthly), P. O. Box 179, Station 11, N. Y. C. These addresses hold until further notice.

The full text of the declaration of principles and the constitution of the Workers Party of the United States appear on pages two and three of this issue. They will be available in pamphlet form at low cost within a few days.

Old Guard W.P. To Back Threatens S.P. With Spit

Boston, Mass.—At the very moment when America witnesses the inspiring effects of the merger of the S. P. and C. L. A. to establish the new revolutionary Workers Party of the U. S., the Socialist Party enters a new stage in the development of the crisis which has been threatening it for several years.

Hard on the heels of the halting by the Illinois group of the S. P., "the party of revolutionary unity," comes the announcement that the meeting held here this week by the national executive of the S. P., the right-wingers ("Old Guard") offered the "Militant" majority now in control the alternatives of either going back to pre-revolutionary status or a split in the party.

One of the main points on the agenda of the present meeting of the S. P. is the question of the formation of a united front with the C. P. A. C. P. delegation led by Nathan Ford and other Stalinist bureaucrats appeared to beg for a vote to split from the S. P. with those whom they yesterday called the working class's worst enemies. The S. P. militant majority, toying with the idea of a united front, was not to be deceived by the S. P. delegation's promises and noise, did not dare to receive the Stalinist delegation because of the objections of the Old Guard.

Old Guard Delivers Ultimatum
The Old Guard prefers its noise and passivity in close relations with the top bureaucracy of the S. P. of L. and feels that it may have to split from the S. P. of L. if the S. P. of L. is not reconstituted.

Unemployed Leaders Speak
The transformation of the unemployed into a political force is the main theme of the S. P. of L. (Continued on Page 4)

Minneapolis Bosses Plot Frame-Up of 574 Leaders

Minneapolis, Minn.—Seventy trade unions have united in a defense committee to give organized labor's militant answer to a frame-up campaign launched by the Citizens Alliance through its class instrument, the municipal police headed by Deputy Johnathan. The frame-up campaign, directed primarily against the leaders of General Local 574, is aimed at the terrorization of the whole local trade union movement.

Several weeks ago an attempt to frame Harry Housman, organizer of the Trucking Union, and to deport him, was smashed. Now, however, the Citizens Alliance is trying a bolder step. They are at the heart of a plot to frame 574 leaders of the Citizens Alliance in a frame-up campaign launched by the Citizens Alliance through its class instrument, the municipal police headed by Deputy Johnathan. The frame-up campaign, directed primarily against the leaders of General Local 574, is aimed at the terrorization of the whole local trade union movement.

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C.L.A. and A.W.P. In Fusion Convention of U.S. Revolutionaries

The Workers Party of the United States has been formed! Amidst series of wildest enthusiasm, the unity convention of the American Workers Party and the Communist League of America completed its historic task Sunday afternoon in Bayview Casino, New York City. Out of its labors and deliberations has arisen the only revolutionary party in the country.

On the ratification by unanimous vote of the fusion agreement, comrade James P. Cannon of the C. L. A. and A. J. Morte of the A. W. P. announced for the two organizations that henceforth they owed allegiance to the Workers Party of the U. S. and to no other organization. The entire audience was on its feet and the strains of the International shook the rafters. The historic work was completed!

Minneapolis, Minn., exemplifying the new militancy of the American working class, were the stars that presided over the birth. Under the most favorable auspices, the new party launches into its tremendous undertaking: the overthrow of capitalist rule in America, and the creation of a workers' state.

A. J. Morte will be the national secretary of the new party. J. P. Cannon will be editor of the official weekly, the New Militant, with Harry Howe as associate editor. The theoretical organ, the New International, will be under the editorship of Max Shachtman and an ex-A.W.P. member. Eleven comrades from the C. L. A. and eleven from the A. W. P. will comprise the national executive, from which will be chosen the political bureau of 10 members. Louis Budenz and Arne Swabeck will be the national organizers.

These, and other important organizational agreements were reached in the opening session, which moved with Bolshevik efficiency and dispatch. Sleepless delegates without rest from the all-night sessions of their respective organizations, shook off their weariness to speed the foundations for the new party.

The speeches were short and to the point. "We are not repudiating our past, rather we are looking towards the future," A. J. Morte said in opening the session.

James P. Cannon, one of the leaders of the strike of the Minneapolis truck drivers, and chairman of the opening session, said: "We are not repudiating our past, rather we are looking towards the future," A. J. Morte said in opening the session.

Fusion Endorsed
With this as the keynote, the session moved swiftly. In a short space of time, and despite the utmost difficulty, the delegates agreed on all matters not previously settled by the separate conventions, the convention heard and approved the appointments of committees, elected the national executive committee, elected the national secretary, and the trade union and unemployment committees, and passed upon the organizational agreement reached between the executive committee of the A.W.P. and the Communist League.

At the second session, Sam Pollack, active in the unemployed movement in Ohio and Illinois, and one of the leaders in the Toledo Auto-Lite strike, presided. He too, was warmly received by the delegates.

The second session passed upon the constitution of the new party as proposed by the joint negotiating committee, with a few amendments. The constitution provided for the party-building report brought in by Max Shachtman, the trade union report read by Arne Swabeck, and the report on work in the field of the unemployed, presented by Anthony Manguma, national president of the National Unemployed League.

Resolutions were passed in support of Tom Mooney, and on behalf of Harry Holstein, whom the hangmen of the Citizens Alliance in Minneapolis are trying to frame for a murder charge. A resolution also endorsed the proposal of the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense for the creation of a permanent labor defense organization. The text of the reports and resolutions will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Here ended the main business of the convention. Fraternal greetings were extended to the convention by Nathan Budenz and Harry Howe, the national secretary of the Workers Party of Canada. The meeting closed with the singing of the International.

Workers, read the New Militant

-- Declaration of Principles

The workers' revolution by its very nature is international in character. Beginning in one or more countries it must be extended progressively to others until it embraces the entire world and establishes a world system. The revolutionary party must therefore be an international party with sections in every country. It must be able to contribute to the formation of new revolutionary parties throughout the world and their union in a New International. The needs of the working class movement in earlier periods of capitalist development led to the formation of the First and later the Second International. The workers' movement today demands the establishment of the Third International. The Second International is today the working class in the way and the workers' movement in the existing Second and Third Internationals at

While the heaviest blows of the capitalist oppression naturally fall upon the most revolutionary elements of the class and particularly members of the revolutionary party, these blows are also directed against all militant and class-conscious workers and in times of great crisis against all elements of the population who dare to express opinions or engage in actions which are "illegal" to the interests and plans of the capitalist exploiters and the executive committee, the government of "Red" U. S. and the police.

The central position among the social forces which must be depended upon to destroy the capitalist economic system and the capitalist state and effect the transition to a scientific socialist economy, belongs to the working class. It will, however, need the support of other sections of society who are also exploited or oppressed. Sections of the middle class

tion. Its organization principles are: democracy, centralization and discipline. Freedom of discussion of party problems and freedom of criticism, including the criticism of the leadership and its policy, is the inalienable right of every party member. The leadership, from the lowest unit up to the National Committee, is freely elected by the membership and is subject to its control and removal.

The adoption of a nationalist, and therefore non-revolutionary theory and practice, associated with the abandonment of the principle of workers' democracy in the Third International and its sections, constitutes the root cause of their decline and degeneration.

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Workers Party Declaration of Principles

cannot be met by an amalgamation of the Second and Third Internationals or by an international based on a mixture of the bankrupt policies of the two. A new, i.e., Fourth, International, based on the theoretical and strategic principles laid down by Marx and Lenin, representing the historic continuity of the revolutionary movement, and applying these basic principles to the historical realities of the present stage of capitalist decline, must be built. The W.P. is prepared to establish fraternal relations with all groups, organizations, parties, and committees which stand on the same fundamental program as our own and to cooperate with them in the elaboration of a complete world program and the speediest possible establishment of the New International.

STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR

The Workers Party is pledged to a revolutionary struggle against war, which can be eliminated only by the overthrow of the society which breeds it. It will strive by every means in its power to prevent the outbreak of another imperialist war. It will combat the idea that it is to the interest of the workers to support defense of the (capitalist) fatherland, based on this idea is on the conception of a conspiracy of imperialist states which can be broken by its very nature makes impossible.

Under no circumstances will the W.P. give any support, directly or indirectly, to any war conducted by the capitalist government of the U. S. On the contrary, it will actively fight such a war and work not for the "victory" of the capitalist government but its defeat. The Workers Party rejects the utopian and illusory ideas of pacifism. We support the wars of the oppressed against the oppressor, of workers' states against capitalist states, of the enslaved peoples against their imperialist exploiters, of the colonies against those who keep them in servitude, of the nationalities, races and minorities who suffer under the yoke of a ruling caste. The policy of folded arms, passive resistance, "conscientious objection," etc. is completely futile as a means of struggle against imperialist wars, and the only answer to imperialist war is the workers' revolution.

This policy holds good also in the event of a military alliance between the U. S. and the Soviet Union (an alliance which under certain circumstances the U. S. might be unable to avoid). In such a case the W. P., unreservedly supporting the Soviet Workers State, would expose the treacherous aims of the government of U. S. Imperialism. In the alliance, call for its overthrow and its replacement by a revolutionary workers' government which alone would be capable of making any such alliance with the S. U. and giving it unopposed support in the war.

THE DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union is a workers' state, product of the Russian revolution and beacon light of inspiration to all the workers of the world. Despite all the difficulties imposed upon it by its isolation within a ring of capitalist enemies the Russian workers have already accomplished marvels, and have demonstrated beyond doubt that planned socialist production is infinitely superior to the capitalist system even in its best period. The unconditional defense of the Soviet Union against capitalist attack is an elementary duty of every worker. Any attempt by the imperialists of any kind to attack or undermine the Soviet Union will be met by the Workers Party ready to defend it to the utmost. Fundamentally this real defense of the Soviet Union depends not upon the League of Nations, non-aggression pacts, or any such measures, but upon successful workers' revolutions in other countries.

THE MAIN TASK

The main and immediate task of the W. P. is the mobilization of the entire working class in the struggle against imperialism and the preparation for its revolutionary overthrow. To this end the Party will work within the mass organizations of workers and farmers and will support and seek to give leadership to all their legal struggles, strikes, pickets, demonstrations, mass action for relief and social insurance, fights against lynching, evictions, foreclosures, etc. The W. P. will participate with its own candidates and program in election campaigns, without, however, allowing the fatal illusion that the workers can escape their emancipation by means of the ballot box. Election campaigns will serve primarily as a means of revolutionary propaganda. Our candidates elected to Congress or other governmental bodies will utilize their position for the purpose of exposing the sham of capitalist "democracy" and promoting the development of the mass movement of the workers. It will carry on constant propaganda to educate the advanced workers in the principles of revolutionary Marxism. Everywhere it will seek to denounce in action the applicability of its principles and tactics and the competence of its leadership in the mass movements of the workers.

THE TRADE UNIONS

The trade unions are the elementary and basic organs of working-class defense against capitalist aggression, and of all trade unions the most important are those of the workers in the large shops, mills, factories and mines of the basic industries.

With these as its base, the Party will penetrate into the unions and federations of all groups of workers, activating and politicizing their struggles. The main aim of the W. P. in the trade unions is to infuse them with the spirit of class politics, to organize and to aid in developing a militant leadership in accord therewith. To this end it will wage an irreconcilable struggle against the reactionary officialdom of the trade union movement. We will encourage and inspire workers in their unions to fight against autocracy, corruption and gangsterism and against the class collaboration tendency so prevalent in the trade union movement, wherever these appear. The W. P. stands for rank and file control and trade union democracy. It will take the initiative in organizing the left and the progressive forces to fight for a militant, class-struggle policy and leadership in the trade union movement.

The W. P. stands for trade union unity, a divided trade union movement, facilitates the program of reaction and Fascism. The Workers Party is opposed to the Communist Party policy of building paper unions, mechanically controlled by the party, which are in no sense autonomous. The Workers Party favors the organization of workers into unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. wherever possible, since the A. F. of L. represents the main mass of organized labor in the country and the only moving force in the labor movement.

The Workers Party does not believe, however, that the American Federation of Labor has any right to claim a monopoly in the field of labor organization. We often the Workers Party has regarded workers in the basic industries by an insistence on craft union forms. In numerous cases, important groups have been forced out of the ranks by outright betrayal of strikes by bureaucracy, racketeering and

other evils. Where the masses are forced to form independent unions as a result of such intolerable situations, the W. P. will support them in their efforts and struggles. We are firmly opposed to the present maneuvers of the Communist Party for the arbitrary and mechanical liquidation of independent unions, regardless of the circumstances that called for their existence, their mass base, or the will of the membership. Where the W. P. is unable or unwilling to organize the unorganized workers, especially in the basic industries, the W. P. will assist them to form independent unions on an industrial basis, will, however, continue to work for a united, industrially constructed and militant trade union movement.

The Workers Party stands for industrial unionism, and will press forward the issue of amalgamation in every field in which such action is necessary.

We warn the organized workers against the tendency, particularly noticeable since the NIRA, to the trade union movement up with the capitalist government. This policy, nourished and supported by the leaders of the American Federation of Labor, must inevitably result, if it is allowed to prevail, in enervating the unions, in restricting the right to strike, and in carrying on an anti-class policy, and undermining the workers' power of resistance.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND FARMERS

The section of the agricultural population on which the Workers Party bases its direct contacts, that of the agricultural laborers whose standard of living is even lower than that of the industrial workers and whose efforts to organize in order to improve their conditions are met by the most brutal repression. The organization of the agricultural laborers is an essential part of the development of the revolutionary movement in the United States. The Workers Party will give special attention to this task, and pledges its fullest support to all the struggles of the agricultural workers.

Millions of share-croppers and tenant farmers in various sections of the United States have been reduced to virtual servitude and a penurious state of existence. Even those farmers who nominally own the land they occupy, are loaded with a growing indebtedness, and are unable to make a living. They are less and less able to make a living from the sale of their produce. This situation has driven them to openly violent "Holiday" movements, milk strikes, anti-foreclosure and anti-eviction demonstrations. These conditions, however, can only be changed by an early progressive character and can achieve lasting results only if they are directed against the capitalist system itself. For the farmers, as well as for all oppressed groups, emancipation and security can come only by fighting with the working class for the overthrow of a capitalist society.

NEGROES AND OTHER OPPRESSED RACIAL GROUPS

The Negroes compose the most exploited and persecuted section of the population of this country. Racial differences are used by the capitalist dictatorship to drive down the standard of living of all workers and to keep them from uniting against their oppressors and the ruling classes of the country. The Workers Party will labor unceasingly to convince the white workers on the one hand, and the workers of the Negro and other oppressed racial groups, such as the Japanese, Mexicans and Filipinos, on the other, that their immediate task is to unite the workers regardless of race in economic and political organizations for a common struggle. The W. P. stands for the complete equality of the Negroes and all other races and will fight against any form of color discrimination, racial, political, social, against wage differentials, lynching, Jim Crowism, the barring of Negroes and other groups from the trade unions, and all other forms of moral and national chauvinism. The struggle for the emancipation of the Negro urban and rural masses cannot achieve decisive results by reliance upon Negro capitalists and middle class elements or a so-called "Negro capitalism." Only by the complete abolition of capitalism will they gain freedom from discrimination, exploitation and tyranny.

COLONIAL PEOPLES

The workers in the United States and the peoples of Latin America, the Philippines, Hawaii and Liberia, have one enemy in common—American imperialism. The Workers Party pledges its unconditional and active support to these peoples in every progressive struggle they undertake. It stands for the complete right of self-determination, free from military, political or economic intervention or pressure by the U. S. imperialism. Our Party stands for the unconditional and immediate independence of the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, and all other colonies and dependencies of the U. S., and for the withdrawal of all troops from any territory outside the boundaries of the U. S. The Workers Party is further pledged to active opposition to any endeavor by American imperialism to keep the colonies in subjection to the right of self-determination of any nation or people.

The revolutions in the colonies, semi-colonies, and "spheres of influence" of U. S. imperialism will play an important part in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the imperialist exploiters at home and overseas. A successful revolution in the United States must be decisive for the emancipation of the toiling masses throughout Latin America. On the other hand the revolution beginning in one of the Latin American countries or in one of the colonies or semi-colonies of the United States, can spread throughout the continent and powerfully accelerate the development of the class struggle and the revolution in the United States. The struggle for the independence of the colonies and throughout its vast empire is thus indissolubly linked together. The Workers Party will actively support and endeavor to coordinate all the manifestations of this struggle.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS

The professional and technical workers have a distinctive contribution to make both in the struggle to overthrow capitalism and in the building of the new social order. With these considerations in mind the W. P. will help to build up economic organizations of these workers and seek to penetrate existing organizations. It will seek to organize professional and technical workers to take part in social and political action and to draw them along with all other exploited groups into the labor and revolutionary movement.

THE UNEMPLOYED

The great and largely permanent army of the unemployed during the period of the capitalist decline of capitalism is a vast depository of every kind of social discontent. In a position where the conduct of their lives has lost social meaning, the unemployed will join with the workers in the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and will take an important place in the social order. Unless the working class movement by giving support to their struggles and by convincing presentation of the revolutionary way out of their predicament, the unemployed will prey for chauvinistic and military propaganda, to fake social notoriety and to Fascist demagoguery. The Workers Party will, therefore, make every effort to break barriers between the unemployed and unemployed workers, to create a common community of interest between them, and will show

Constitution of the Workers Party

Resolved, That the following document be adopted as the CONSTITUTION OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the American Workers Party and of the Communist League of America, as certified by the Secretaries of the respective organizations, shall become Charter Members of the Workers Party of the U. S. upon signifying their desire to do so, and are eligible for election or appointment to all offices, and be it further

Resolved, That all persons applying for membership within sixty days after the first Convention, and whose applications are accepted, shall have the status of Charter Members, and be it further

Resolved, That the National Committee of the Workers Party of the U. S. in the period between the initial and the second National Conventions, is empowered to increase its membership up to and including thirty by two-thirds vote and to elect additional members accordingly, likewise by two-thirds vote.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES (hereinafter referred to as "the Party").

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Party is set forth in its Declaration of Principles.

ARTICLE III: INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION

The Party, at its launching, is affiliated with no other group, party, or organization, but is open to cooperation with them in the elaboration of a common program and the speediest possible establishment of the new revolutionary International. Action on any organizational affiliation must be submitted to a National Convention of the Party.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS

Section 1. All those who accept the Declaration of Principles adopted at the First Convention, who agree to abide by the constitution of the Party, and are active in its work are eligible to membership.

Section 2. Every member must belong to a duly constituted branch of the Party in the locality where he resides. If such a branch exists. In localities where no such branch exists, members shall be admitted as members-at-large.

Section 3. Applications for membership shall be acted upon by the local branch concerned, in accordance with the general regulations laid down by the National Committee, and subject to review by higher units of the Party. Applications for membership-at-large shall be acted upon by the National Committee, or by such committee as it shall designate.

Section 4. An official Membership Card shall be issued to each member.

Section 5. A member desiring to leave one locality for another must apply to his branch for permission, and receive a transfer card, which is to be deposited with the branch of the locality to which the member moves. If no branch exists in the new locality, the member shall remain a member-at-large.

Section 6. No National Committee is empowered to accept groups or organizations of individuals, eligible under Section 1 of this Article, as members en bloc, and to assign them to the proper branches.

ARTICLE V: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The basic unit of the Party shall be the branch. A branch shall consist of not less than 10 members. Where a branch exists, a branch shall achieve a membership of 50, it shall be subdivided into two branches. Exceptions can be made only by permission of the National Committee.

Section 2. Wherever two or more branches exist in the same locality, a Local Executive Committee shall be formed by delegates from the respective branches elected on the basis of proportional representation.

Section 3. In such cases as may be decided by the National Committee, delegates to Executive Committees, comprising delegates from a given group of local branches, shall be formed.

ARTICLE VI: ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The highest governing body of the Party is the National Convention. Its decisions shall be binding upon the entire membership.

Section 2. Between National Conventions, the authority of the Convention, subject to the decisions of the Party, shall be vested in the National Committee.

In action how the fight of employed and unemployed against their common oppressor can be united. It supports and helps organize the struggles of the unemployed for relief, against evictions, for social insurance, etc.

THE YOUNG WORKERS

The capitalist system has throughout its existence been marked by the most heinous exploitation of children and youth. Capitalist society today cannot offer jobs even at starvation wages to millions of its youth, but only frustration or actual destruction under Fascist reaction or war. The working and student youth will find in the Workers Party which aims at the establishment of a socialist society the constant champion of their interests. The Party will undertake an active and important part in the building of a youth organization embracing young workers, young farmers and young students based on the party's principles of revolutionary Marxism.

THE UNITED FRONT

In spite of organizational and political differences, the workers, defend their rights and advance their interests, must achieve militant action. If they do not, wage and relief cuts, increasing abrogation of political and civil liberties and finally war and the victory of fascism are assured. The Workers Party will lead and in practice disruptive united front such as was proposed by the Communist Party in the "anti-front-from-below." Likewise the W. P. rejects arbitrary arrangements between bureaucratic officials imposed upon the masses by the "non-class action pacts" which in practice mean capitulation to reformist tendencies since they obscure differences of principle between reformists and the revolutionary workers. The Workers Party stands for an honest, straightforward, carefully defined united front of organizations on specific and immediate issues facing the workers. Such united front actions in which the workers are organized to fight for a common political and organizational independence, develop the mass power of the workers, teach the workers the need and value of unity, expose the weakness or treachery of the reformist leaders, and give the revolutionary party the opportunity to show in action the correctness of its principles and tactics. Thus, united front actions are indispensable preparations for the revolutionary unity which, in the revolutionary crisis, will enable the workers to take power.

the Convention, is vested in the National Committee elected by the Convention.

Section 3. The National Committee shall be composed as follows:

Par. 1. There shall be twenty-two members. Par. 2. The National Convention shall elect also six alternates, to fill vacancies in the National Committee in the order decided upon by the Convention. Par. 3. Members of the National Committee may be dropped from the Committee and/or from the Party only by vote of the National Convention. Members of the National Committee may, however, be suspended from membership and be barred from all rights as members, pending final decision of the Party Convention, by vote of two-thirds of the membership of the National Committee.

Section 4. The National Committee directs all the work of the Party, decides all questions of policy in accordance with the decisions of the Convention, appoints subordinate officers and sub-committees, including the Political Committee, and in general, constitutes between Conventions the functioning authority of the Party.

Section 5. The local governing body of the Party shall be the Local Executive Committee, or, where only one branch exists, the Branch Executive Committee. Where District Executive Committees have been constituted, the National Committee shall decide their relation to the Local and Branch Executive Committees.

Section 6. The Branch Executive Committee shall be elected by the membership of the branch, and is subordinate to the branch membership. Its duties shall include the election of officers and the carrying out of full powers for the branch between branch meetings. This section applies likewise to Local Executive Committees.

ARTICLE VI: INITIATION FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Each applicant for membership (other than Charter Members) shall pay an initiation fee of one dollar, which shall be refunded for by an initiation stamp furnished by the National Office. The entire initiation fee shall be paid to the National Office.

Section 2. Each member shall pay monthly dues of fifty cents, which shall be collected by dues stamps furnished by the National Office through the Branch Treasurer, and affixed to the membership card of each member. In addition, all members are expected to make regular voluntary contributions according to their means.

Section 3. No member shall be expelled from the Party on account of non-payment of dues, but members failing to pay dues for three consecutive months shall be considered as having resigned. In special cases, however, local branches are at liberty to provide payment for individual unemployed branch members for three months, upon vote of the branch. The National Committee is, however, empowered to exempt a branch, and its members, from this requirement, and to issue special unemployed stamps.

Section 5. Housewives, not employed, who are members of the party, may, on request, be granted unemployed exempt stamps.

Section 6. Dues paying members of the youth organization who are simultaneously party members shall, on request, be exempted from the payments of dues in the party.

Section 7. Members who are three months in arrears in payment of dues shall cease to be members in good standing, and shall be so notified by the Branch Executive. Members six months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls of the Party.

ARTICLE VII: DISCIPLINE

Section 1. All decisions of the governing bodies of the Party are binding upon the members and subordinate units of the Party.

Section 2. Any member or unit violating the decisions of a higher unit of the Party shall be subject to disciplinary action up to expulsion by the body having jurisdiction.

Section 3. Charges against any member shall be made in writing and the accused member shall be furnished with a copy. Charges filed before branches shall be considered by the Branch Executive Committee at a meeting to which the accused member is invited. The Branch Executive Committee shall submit a recommendation to be acted upon by the membership of the Branch. Charges considered by higher units of the Party shall, however, be acted upon by the said units.

Section 4. Disciplinary action by a higher unit of the Party shall be initiated in the local branch. Failure of the branch to act, or branch action deemed improper by the higher unit, may be initiated by direct disciplinary action by the higher unit.

Section 5. Any member subjected to disciplinary action has the right to appeal to the next higher unit up to and including the National Convention. Pending action on the appeal, the decision of the Party body having jurisdiction remains in full force and effect.

ARTICLE VIII: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

Section 1. Except in the case of newly organized branches, members of Local and Branch Executive Committees must have been members of the Party for at least three months.

Section 2. Members of the National Committee must have been members of the Party for at least one year.

ARTICLE IX: FRACTIONS

Section 1. The National Convention of the Party shall be held every two years. The National Convention shall be called by the National Committee upon demand of branches or Local Executive Committees representing one-half of the membership.

Section 2. The Call for the Convention, together with an agenda and the proposals to be discussed, shall be issued at least sixty days before the date of the Convention for discussion in the local organizations and in the official publications.

Section 3. Representatives at the Convention shall be proportionally based upon the membership in good standing at the time of the Convention Call.

Members of the Party in trade unions and other mass organizations shall organize themselves into fractions for common work within such organizations. The work of the fraction within a mass organization shall be under the direction and control of the Party unit having jurisdiction over the Party members constituting the fraction. The members of a fraction must vote as a unit under all circumstances. Violations of fraction discipline shall be reported to the proper organization of the Party for action.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Amendments shall be made to this Constitution by majority vote of the National Convention.

Minneapolis Frame-Up Attacked by Dunne

(Continued on Page 1)

Immediately called for his re-arrest on the trumped-up charge of having murdered Lynard Barty. The following day at a meeting of 50 reform-enthusiasts and officials of the trade union movement of the city, which had been called to plan the fight, the citizens of Minneapolis, under the leadership of the city government, resolutions were introduced by the leaders of local 574 which resulted in the meeting being converted into a meeting to plan a defense rally for Happy Holsten.

The Minneapolis Labor Review of Friday, Nov. 23, devotes its front page entirely to a discussion of that meeting—characterizing it as "the greatest outpouring of business representatives and officials of unions that has occurred in several years."

The next day the Trade Union Defense Committee brought Happy Holsten out of jail on \$10,000 bail, procured by placing the property of the Milk Drivers Union at 340 Fifth Street under its name.

The Labor Review says: "Organized labor is in an ugly mood at the attempted framing of Happy Holsten."

Trade unionists have not forgotten how Henry Ness and John Heier, valiant members of Drivers 574, were slaughtered and more than 100 others shot in the back. There has been no effort to apprehend or indict those big shot higher-ups responsible for giving the order for their slaying while Happy Holsten, a humble worker, is being attempted to be framed is convincing the workers, more than ever that the so-called machinery of justice is the machinery of class law and not of even handed justice."

V. R. Dunne Promises Fight

Commenting on the attempted frame-up of union leaders, Vincent J. Dunne, Mayor of General District 1, Union 574 of the C.I.A., now in New York City to attend the founding convention of the Workers Party of the U. S., made the following statement to the Militant:

"We have heard of such confessions before in the history of frame-ups against members of trade unions. The story is always the same: 'I was forced to do it because like honest union men, we are not frightened by this one.'

"If the Citizens Alliance wants a fight, they will get it. Seventy Minneapolis citizens, all of the American Federation of Labor, have been leagued together to fight these frame-ups and their instigators. I am confident that the Workers Party will make one of its first activities the rallying of its members throughout the country to organize a nation-wide defense movement. "Before we get through with the Citizens Alliance, we will have planned organizations in other cities. I will think twice before they try to railroad an honest trade union member to his death."

Party to Act on Defense

(Continued from Page 2)

slens. In the struggle against reaction, against Fascist and semi-Fascist forces, against the suppression of civil liberties and the rights of labor to organize, strike, picket and otherwise defend its interests, against deportations, against the persecution of the Negroes and other minority elements of the population, the entire working class has a common interest. It is the task of the revolutionary party to lead the class in the common interest and to bring about militant action on behalf of this interest. In such action on an honest, fighting, united front basis, the workers will advance by the day against its class enemy and out of the fires of the struggle will come new revolutionary elements and an ever more militant movement.

The founding convention of the Workers Party of the U. S. notes with regret that there exists no organization capable of giving continuous and organized expression to this common interest. A broad, class-conscious militant defense organization does not exist today. Its creation is crying need. To it should be given the highest priority, regardless of political differences. It should be paragon only of the class as a whole, including all militant workers and fighting on behalf of all working class victims of capitalist oppression regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations. It should combine with all militant workers and organizations of mass campaigns so that the capitalist courts and administrative agencies will learn to fear the anger of the class and be compelled to abandon their plots against the workers.

The founding convention notes with appreciation the proposals made at the recent meeting of the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense and discussed on several occasions with the workers of the American Workers Party and other elements of the labor movement. The convention must, however, under all circumstances, be called to carry these discussions further and to hasten the establishment of a militant, class-conscious, non-partisan defense organization as a primary task of the working class in a period of intense struggle and bitter reaction.

